

being supposed to be highly injurious to cattle, especially horses, causing blindness, which prevailed in many parts to a fearful extent.

On reaching Whitehall, situated at the southern extremity of Lake Champlain, two remarkable species of ferns were observed for the first time; namely *Asplenium rhizophyllum* and *Aspidium bulbiferum*, the former growing on the surfaces of moist rocks, where it throws out its fronds which take root at their extremities; while the latter bears a number of small bulbs along the rachis, which, when mature, fall off and vegetate in the crevices of the rocks. Many other interesting plants were observed, but few of them in flower, with the exception of *Rubus spectabilis*, *Desmodium acuminatum* and *cunadense*, and a few others.

Mr. M'Nab afterwards exhibited several specimens of gooseberries and currants which had been kept for the last two years in glasses containing water only, in which they had now matured their fruit for the second time; and it was remarkable that the gooseberries (*yellow amber*) and the red and white currants were as highly flavoured as the same sorts under ordinary treatment.

Mr. Trevelyan exhibited specimens of some remarkable varieties of *Taraxacum officinale* found on the sandy beach near Arbroath, and a curious variety of *Aspidium*, *felix femina*, from Braemar, having the frond branched at the extremity; the specimens were afterwards presented to the Society.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Correction by Dr. Dickie on Art. XXI. p. 168 of this Number.*

### CUTLERIA MULTIFIDA.

IN justice to so accurate an observer as Dr. Greville, I beg to acknowledge that since my note and figures on the fructification of this genus were made out, I have ascertained that they have reference to its condition when immature.—G. D.

### COLOURING OF THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA.

A memoir on the colour of the waters of the Red Sea, by M. Montagne, was read at the Académie des Sciences, July 15th. The conclusions which the author draws from all the facts contained in his memoir, whether already known or entirely new and still unpublished, are the following:—

1. That the name of Erythrean Sea, given first to the sea of Oman and to the Arabian Gulf by Herodotus, afterwards by the later Greek authors to all the seas which bathe the coasts of Arabia, probably owes its origin to the very remarkable phænomenon of the colouring of its waters.

2. That this phænomenon, observed for the first time in 1823 by M. Ehrenberg in the bay of Tor only, then again seen twenty years later by M. Dupont, but in truly gigantic dimensions, is owing to the presence of a microscopic Alga *sui generis*, floating at the surface